



"The Holy Ghost says that a virtuous woman will fall to the lot of the man who is full of the fear of God, and that the Lord will give her to him in reward of his good works." What, then, must have been the sanctity, the perfection of St. Joseph to merit that God should bestow on him the most virtuous, the most holy, the most perfect of women! We read in Genesis that God made Adam a wife like unto himself; may we not likewise say that He gave to Mary a husband who, by his virtue, his piety, his noble and holy qualities, bore her a marked resemblance? Mary was the holiest of women, and Joseph the most perfect of men. If God the Father was pleased to entrust to the care of St. Joseph His well-beloved Son, His "alter ego;" if He chose St. Joseph to represent Him as father to the Man-God, to provide for all His temporal needs and to direct Him just as a father does his son, receiving from Him obedience, respect and love just as from an ordinary child, then must not this great Saint have been in a state of the highest perfection and invested by God with all possible greatness, honor and power?

I no longer wonder after this at the devotion of Christians to St. Joseph; at the unlimited confidence they place in his powerful protection. It is, in fact, impossible that, after all he has done for Him on earth, God should refuse him anything in Heaven. He on his part never refused anything to Jesus whilst on earth, and will Jesus refuse to hear him in Heaven? Will He turn a deaf ear to his supplications? Will He refuse to grant what he demands in our behalf, whether for soul or body? No: such a thing is not credible. I feel even tempted to add that such a thing is impossible! Let us not, then, be afraid of having too much confidence in St. Joseph and of asking him for too much. The greater our